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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 17, 1954

SECRET - EYES ONLY

Dear David:

Please forgive my delay in replying to your most interesting and helpful letter of March 1. The background it supplied has been most helpful. Needless to say all of us here watch with admiration your expert manipulation of all the complicated forces in this great enterprise. Incidentally I will be most interested in your comments on the Italian scene when you have a chance to put them on paper.

On the matter of the Saar, I think as things now stand we had better leave the situation as it is. It seems to me that with your tact and grasp you can in fact make a major contribution to the various aspects of the problem without formalizing any line of responsibility.

We are doing our best at this end to support you. I am sorry that the EDC Declaration could not have been more precise but I know that you will understand that it was the very best that could have been secured and still retain the broad Congressional support which was an essential feature. We covered a lot of territory on the Hill and in its present form some vigorous selling was required.

All the best.

Sincerely,

Livingston T. Merchant

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/
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The Honorable
David K. E. Bruce,
U. S. Representative to the
Coal and Steel Community,
American Embassy,
Paris.

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